

6 Popular Horse Breeds



American Quarter Horse

- The American Quarter Horse is an American breed of horse that excels in sprinting short distances.
- Their name comes from their ability to outrun other horse breeds in races of a quarter mile or less. Some have been clocked to going up to 55 mph.
- The Quarter Horse's traits include; going great speed over short distances, short, refined face, short well-muscled body, broad chest, and powerful, rounded hindquarters. They are usually 14.3 to 16 hands and 950 to 1,200 pounds
- The American Quarter Horse is the most popular breed in the US today.
- Their compact bodies make them well-suited for intricate and quick maneuvering required in reining, cutting, barrel racing, and calf roping.
- Quarter horses are also popular for driving, show jumping, dressage, hunting, and many other equestrian sports.



Arabian

- The Arabian horse is the most recognizable and oldest breeds in the horse world.
- Originating from the Middle East blood lines, have been dated back 4,500 years.
- Arabians were bred and used to improve other horse breeds by adding speed, refinement, endurance and strong bones. Today arabian bloodlines have been found in almost every modern riding horse breed.
- Distinguishing features of the arabian are; finely chiseled bone structure, concave profile, arched neck, and high carried tail.
- Arabians are typically 14.1 to 15.1 hands and 800 to 1,000 pounds. They are usually bay, black, chestnut, or gray.
- Arabians were bred to be cooperative with humans, good-natured, quick to learn, and willing to please.
- Arabians dominate the discipline of distance riding, but are a versatile horse and used in many other sports.



Thoroughbred

- Thoroughbred horses are best known for racing.
- Thoroughbreds are considered to be “hot-blooded” and known for their agility, speed, spiritedness, and being bold.
- They originated from England, then were spread all over the world.
- Distinguishing features of the thoroughbreds are; Tall, slim, athletic. Typically 15.2 to 17.0 hands. They are often bays, dark bay or brown, chestnut, black, or gray.
- Thoroughbreds are mainly used for racing but are also bred for other riding disciplines like show jumping, combined training (eventing), dressage, polo, and fox hunting.



Appaloosa

- The Appaloosa is an American horse breed known for its colorful spotted coat pattern.
- The Appaloosa has a wide range of body types and coat patterns within the breed. This is because of the “leopard complex” genetics.
- They can range anywhere from 950 to 1,250 pounds and 14 to 16 hands.
- Appaloosa’s have three core characteristics; mottled skin, striped hooves, and eyes with white eyelids.
- The coat color of an Appaloosa is a combination of a base color with an overlaid spotting pattern. Base colors include bay, black, chestnut, buckskin, cremello or perlino, roan, gray, dun, and grulla.
- Appaloosa’s are used in a variety of disciplines including cutting, reining, roping, barrel racing, pole bending, eventing, show jumping, fox hunting, and endurance racing.



American Paint Horse

- The American Paint Horse is a breed that combine characteristics of a western stock horse and a pinto coat color.
- They were developed from a base of spotted horses with quarter horse and thoroughbred bloodlines.
- Distinguishing features of the paint horse are; broad pinto spotting of white and dark hair. (Paint horses can also be a solid color but they have to have offspring of registered paint horses.)
- A registered paint horse should have the same “stock horse” body type that is desired in Quarter Horses: Muscular, heavy but not too tall, a low center of gravity for maneuverability, and a powerful hindquarters.
- Most common colors are horses with white spots combined with black, brown, bay, and chestnut or sorrel.
- American Paint Horses are commonly use for western pleasure, reining, hunter seat, and show jumping.



Morgan Horse

- The Morgan horse is one of the earliest horses developed in the United States. Bloodlines tracing back to the foundation sire Figure, later named Justin Morgan after his owner.
- Morgans have influenced other major American breeds like the American Quarter Horse, Tennessee Walking Horse, and the Standardbred.
- Morgans distinguishing features are: compact, muscular but refined build, expressive head, strong legs, well defined withers, laid back shoulders, short back, and a upright, well arched defined neck.
- They are typically 14.1 to 15.2 hands and anywhere from 900 to 1,100 pounds. Morgan's usually come in bays, black, or chestnut but can be many colors including several variations of pinto.
- Morgan's are known for their versatility and are used for multiple disciplines including dressage, show jumping, western pleasure, cutting, driving and endurance riding.

